

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10239 141659Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O R 141626Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7165

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T CAIRO 10239

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGSC PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: PAN-ARAB FORCES IN LEBANON

REF JIDDA 6892

1. WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT AT LEAST ONE DELEGATION
TO OCT 15 ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN LEBANON
WILL SUGGEST DISPATCH OF SOME KIND OF MILITARY OBSERVER FORCE
TO SECURE LEBANESE CEASEFIRE. IF UK EMBOFF IN JIDDA (REFTEL)
IS CORRECT IN STATING DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMATION THAT "ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT DEFINITELY WOULD NOT RPT NOT TOLERATE THE DESPATCH
TO LEBANON OF AN INTER-ARAB FORCE" THEN WE BELIEVE
EGYPTIANS SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD OF THIS FORTHWITH. FURTHERMORE,
WE SHOULD KNOW, IF WE ARE TO TALK WITH FAHMY ABOUT THIS ISSUE, WHAT
KIND OF INTER-ARAB FORCE MIGHT BE "TOLERABLE". WE WOULD ALSO LIKE
TO KNOW WHAT EVIDENCE THERE IS OF WHAT ISRAELI TOLERANCE WOULD
MEAN IN TERMS OF POLITICAL OR POSSIBLY MILITARY REACTION.

2. WE WISH TO STRESS OUR VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO TRY TO
CURB ANY ARAB LEAGUE ACTION BEFORE, RATHER THAN AFTER, A FORMAL
INITIATIVE IS TAKEN AT TOMORROW'S MEETING. LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ABOVE
ALL WOULD SURELY WISH TO KNOW WHAT ISRAELI TOLERANCE LEVEL MIGHT

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BE/. WE REALIZE GOL HAS NEVER BEEN KEEN ON NOTION OF FOREIGN ARAB

TROOPS WITHIN BOUNDARIES OF LEBANON, BUT IN CURRENT ABYSMAL
SITUATION THERE, WE ASSUME THAT SOME FUNDAMENTAL RETHINKING MIGHT
BE UNDERWAY. MILITARY OBSERVERS MIGHT BE SOMETHING WHICH TAQLA
MIGHT AT LEAST BE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH ARAB LEAGUE. IF SUCH
A PAN-ARAB OBSERVER TEAM IS INTOLERABLE TO GOI, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND
THAT THIS INFORMATION BE PASSED TO GOL AND GOE AS WELL AS OTHER
MODERATELY-MINDED ARAB GOVERNMENTS WITHOUT DELAY.
EILTS

SECRET

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